



News from

Congressman Ron Kind

REPRESENTING WISCONSIN'S THIRD
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

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Kind Amendments Focused on Creating Next Generation of Math and Science Leaders

Successful Measure Provides Financial Incentives for Math and Science Students

Washington, DC –U.S. Rep. Ron Kind (D-WI) today succeeded in passing an amendment to the Higher Education Act to provide scholarships and grants for students to study and enter into careers in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) fields. The bipartisan measure, which Kind offered with Rep. McKeon (R-CA) and Rep. Rush Holt (D-NJ), was one in a series of Kind-sponsored proposals to improve math and science education and maintain a competitive STEM workforce. Kind also offered amendments to make college more affordable for students and their families ([see accompanying press release](#)). The Higher Education Act was approved today by the Committee, of which Rep. Kind is a member.

“America is suffering from a shrinking talent pool of students who are proficient in fields of math, sciences, engineering and technology, and is consequently in danger of losing its unique position of world leadership in innovation and creativity,” stated Rep. Kind. “We must do more to make Americans employable in 21st century jobs by putting greater emphasis on student achievement in these areas and giving our students the tools and skills they need to compete in the today’s economy. Our global competitors are doing it - we can’t afford to stand idly and watch them pass us by.”

Today, Asian colleges produce six times the number of engineering degrees produced in the United States; China graduates four times as many, and South Korea graduates the same number as the United States while having only 1/6th of our population. The United States ranks seventeenth in the proportion of the college-age population earning science and engineering degrees-down from third place several decades ago. In recent months, information technology (IT) industry leaders such as Microsoft CEO Bill Gates and CEO of Intel Craig R. Barrett, have expressed concern that the pool of qualified IT specialists to drive American innovation is shrinking.

“Unless the United States takes swift action, the demand for scientists and engineers will far outstrip supply,” stated Kind. “The number of jobs requiring technical training is growing at five times the rate of other occupations, yet the average number of entrants is static or declining. We must do more to increase enrollments in these areas of study, otherwise face the consequences of losing our competitive advantage in the world marketplace.”

In the spring, Kind went to China with other members of the Education Committee to explore China’s aggressive investment in education and their emphasis in math, science, and engineering programs.